

Key

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

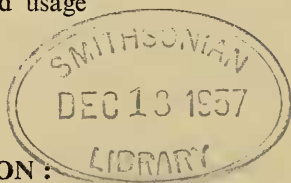
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 491

Interpretation under the Plenary Powers of the nominal species *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) for the purpose of validating accustomed usage



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 491

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954).

OPINION 491

INTERPRETATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF
THE NOMINAL SPECIES "PALAEOPSYLLA DAEA"
DAMPF, 1910 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER SIPHON-
APTERA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF VALIDATING
ACCUSTOMED USAGE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers it is hereby directed that notwithstanding the fact that the name *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera), was stated by its author to be a substitute for the invalid name *Typhlopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1901, the nominal species so named is to be interpreted by reference to the specimens described by Dampf on page 633 and figured as Figs. Q, R, S, T, U and V in his original description of the foregoing nominal species.

(2) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *daea* Dampf, 1910, as published in the combination *Palaeopsylla daea*, as defined by the lectotype selected by Hopkins (G.H.E.) (1956 : 351, paragraph 9) from among the specimens specified under the Plenary Powers in (1) above to be the standard of reference for the interpretation of the nominal species so named (Name No. 1438) ;
- (b) *aspalacis* Jordan, 1929, as published in the combination *Amphipsylla aspalacis* (Name No. 1439) ;

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 472 :—

sibirica Wagner, 1901, as published in the combination *Typhlopsylla sibirica* (a junior secondary homonym in the genus *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, of *sibirica* Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination *Ctenopsylla sibirica*).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 23rd June 1954, Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins (*British Museum (Natural History), The Zoological Museum, Tring*) submitted a preliminary application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for the interpretation under the Plenary Powers of the nominal species *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) for the purpose of validating the use of the above name in its accustomed sense. Following correspondence between the applicant and the Secretary on certain questions of detail the following revised application was submitted on 24th September 1954 :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to secure the interpretation of the nominal species “*Palaeopsylla daea*”, Dampf, 1910 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) in a manner consistent with the universally accepted use of that name

By G. H. E. HOPKINS, O.B.E., M.A.

(*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts*)

Wagner published in 1901 (usually incorrectly quoted as 1900) in *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* 35 : 26, pl. 1, figs. 3, 4, the description of a single female flea which he named *Typhlopsylla sibirica* and which is now

referred to the genus *Amphipsylla*. The specific name is a secondary homonym of *Ctenopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1898, which is also an *Amphipsylla*.

2. Dampf, 1910 (*Zool. Jb. Suppl.* **12** : 633, figs. Q, R, S, T, U, V) described and figured very fully both sexes of a species which he named *Palaeopsylla daea*, and which is also an *Amphipsylla*. Unfortunately he proposed this name in the form "*Palaeopsylla daea* nom. nov. (= *Palaeopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1900, nec. *P. sibirica* (Wagner, 1898))". Some of Dampf's original material is in the British Museum collection of fleas at Tring and none survives in the Breslau Zoological Museum, whence his specimens were obtained.

3. Wagner, 1912 (*Rev. russe Ent.* **12** : 577) points out differences between his *Typhlopsylla sibirica* and Dampf's material. He evidently doubts their being the same and clearly regards the name *daea* as applying to Dampf's specimens if the two should prove different.

4. Ioff and Tiflov, 1939 (*Rev. Microbiol., Saratov* **16** : 407) record having examined the holotype of "*Amphipsylla sibirica* W. 1900 (nec 1898 !)" and state that they consider it to be the same as *Amphipsylla aspalacis* Jordan, 1929 (*Novit. zool.* **35** : 161, pl. 10, figs. 22, 24) and different from *A. daea* Dampf, 1910. They clearly regard the name *daea* as applying to the specimens described by Dampf (not to Wagner's holotype of *Typhlopsylla sibirica*), and all subsequent writers on fleas have applied the name in the same way.

5. As originally used, therefore, the name *Amphipsylla daea* (Dampf), 1910 applies to two species, the one which Dampf actually had before him and which he described, and the one which he erroneously thought he was redescribing. His application of the name to the later element has page precedence, but no subsequent author who has recognized the distinctness of the two elements has applied the name *daea* to anything but the material Dampf actually described.

6. Until quite recently the question of which element included by Dampf under the name *daea* should continue to bear that name after the discovery that the two elements were not the same would have been open to doubt, for already in 1948 the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, had given notice that the general question involved would be considered as a special problem by the next (Copenhagen) Congress in 1953, and had invited specialists to submit statements of their views as to the nature of the decision which it was desirable should be taken (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 499—502 ; Hemming, 1952, *ibid.* **7** : 119—130). Thus, up to 1953 the *Règles* contained no clear

guidance as to the course which should be followed in a case of this kind. On the one hand it would have been possible to apply the "First Reviser" Principle, which would have ensured the retention of the name *daea* for the species which Dampf actually had before him. On the other hand, it would have been possible to take the view either that this case should be dealt with in accordance with the Page Precedence Principle or that, as the name in question had been expressly published as a substitute name, it must be held to adhere to the species to which the name so replaced was applicable. In either of these cases the name *daea* would have applied to the species described by Wagner in 1901 and not to the species to which Dampf intended it to apply. Applying presumably the First Reviser Principle, all authors have used the name *daea* for the species which Dampf had before him when he published that name.

7. The question of principle underlying this case was settled by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, when it decided that in cases of the present kind "the species to which the new name applies is in all circumstances that to which the previously published name is applicable" (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 75—76, Decision 142). Under this decision the name *Amphipsylla daea* (Dampf), 1910, must (if the normal priorities of the *Règles* are to be applied) be transferred from the species which has always borne it (which will be left nameless) to the species which has always been known as *Amphipsylla aspalacis* Jordan, 1929. Further aggravations of the situation are (a) that the holotype of *Amphipsylla sibirica* (Wagner), 1901 (and therefore of *A. daea* (Dampf), 1910, under strict application of the *Règles*) is a female, that females in the genus *Amphipsylla* are extremely difficult to determine, and that in consequence the subjective identification of *aspalacis* with *sibirica* Wagner, 1901 (*nec* 1898) will always remain arguable, and (b) that the Soviet entomologists (in whose territory all the fleas mentioned in this application occur) will certainly continue to use the name *daea* for the species which Dampf actually had before him and which has always borne the name.

8. If nothing is done to remedy the foregoing situation, we are liable to find ourselves faced with a completely farcical state of affairs, in which East European authors will use the name *daea* for one species, West European authors will use it for another, while in the case of a German author it will be necessary to know his place of residence before one could guess to which species he was applying the name. The extreme confusion which would result from the application of the normal provisions of the *Règles* in this case is self-evident. This is therefore, in my opinion, pre-eminently a case calling for the use by the International Commission of its Plenary Powers. As regards the form of that action, the course which I recommend is that the Commission should direct that the nominal species *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910, is not to be treated as being objectively identical with the nominal species

Typhlopsylla sibirica Wagner, 1901, but is to be interpreted by reference to the specimens described and figured by Dampf in 1910 when he first published the specific name *daea*. The adoption of this course will provide a firm legal basis for the interpretation of the nominal species *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf in a manner consistent with the universal usage of subsequent authors.

9. Dampf himself did not designate a holotype for this species and accordingly the material on which he based his description of this species in 1910 will all become syntypes under the decision now asked for. That material contains only one male specimen and that specimen I now select as the lectotype of the above species. This specimen (together with some females from the Dampf series) is in the British Museum (Natural History) collection of fleas now housed at the Zoological Museum, Tring. The terminalia of this specimen agree with those shown by Dampf in figure T in his paper of 1910 (: 639). Up till now this specimen has borne on its labels the following particulars : (1) “*Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910” ; (2) “? Transbaikalien” ; (3) “*Arctomys bobac*” ; (4) “Dybowski, received from Breslau Zoological Museum” ; (5) C. Rothschild Coll. Brit. Mus. 1923, 615”. To these particulars has now been added :—“Lectotype of *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910, *Zool. Jahrb.*, Suppl. 12 : 633, selected by G. H. E. Hopkins, 1956”. I ask that in completion of the action asked for in the present application, the Commission should make express reference to this lectotype selection, when placing on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*, the specific name *daea* Dampf, 1910, as published in the combination *Palaeopsylla daea*, and as defined under the Plenary Powers in the manner recommended in paragraph 8 above.

10. The proposal now submitted is therefore that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers to direct that, notwithstanding the fact that the name *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910, was stated by its author to be a substitute for the invalid name *Typhlopsylla sibirica* Wagner, 1901, the nominal species so named by Dampf is to be interpreted by reference to the specimens described and figured by that author at the time when he published the name *Palaeopsylla daea* ;

(2) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

daea Dampf, 1910, as published in the combination *Palaeopsylla daea* and as defined by the lectotype selected by Hopkins (G.H.E.) in paragraph 9 of the present application from among the specimens which, under the action under the

Plenary Powers, recommended in (1) above, will become the syntypes of the species so named ;

- (3) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—*sibirica* Wagner, 1901, as published in the combination *Typhlopsylla sibirica* (invalid in the genus *Amphipsylla* Wagner, 1909, as a junior secondary homonym of *sibirica* Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination *Ctenopsylla sibirica*).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Mr. Hopkins' preliminary application the question of the interpretation under the Plenary Powers of the nominal species *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910 (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera) was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 846.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 30th November 1955 and was published on 9th May 1956 in Part 11 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hopkins, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 349—352).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 9th May 1956 (a) in Part 11 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Hopkins'

application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications and to seven entomological serials in Europe and America.

5. No objection received : No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(56)46 : On 30th November 1956 a Voting Paper (V.P.(56)46) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the specific name *daea* Dampf, 1910, as published in the combination *Palaeopsylla daea*, as set out in Points (1) to (3) in paragraph 10 on pages 351 and 352 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 2nd March 1957.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(56)46 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(56)46 was as follows :—

- (a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Boschma ; Vokes ; Hering ; Mayr ; Lemche ; Holthuis ; Jaczewski ; Prantl ; Bonnet ; Mertens ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Bodenheimer ; Dymond ; Kühnelt ; Riley ; Key ; Esaki ; Stoll ; do Amaral ; Cabrera ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Tortonese ; Hemming ; Miller ;

- (b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

- (c) *Prevented from Voting by interruption of postal communications consequent upon political disturbances, one (1) :*

Hankó ;

- (c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 3rd March 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(56)46, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Addition to the “ Official List of Specific Names in Zoology ” of the specific name “ aspalacis ” Jordan, 1929, as published in the combination “ *Amphipsylla aspalacis* ” : On

29th June 1957, Mr. Hemming executed a Minute directing that under the "Completeness of Opinions" Rule, the specific name *aspalacis* Jordan, 1929, as published in the combination *Amphipsylla aspalacis*, being (i) a name involved in the present case and (ii) the oldest available name for the taxon concerned, be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* in the Ruling to be prepared for the *Opinion* embodying the decision taken by the Commission on the case relating primarily to the name *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910, by its vote on Voting Paper V.P.(56)46.

11. Status of the specific name "sibirica" Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination "Ctenopsylla sibirica" : On 29th June 1957, Mr. Hemming placed the following note on the Commission's File Z.N.(S.) 846 relating to the present case :—

The specific name "sibirica" Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination "Ctenopsylla sibirica"

In order to obviate the risk of any question being raised as to why under the "Completeness of Opinions" Rule the specific name *sibirica* Wagner, 1898, as published in the combination *Ctenopsylla sibirica*, being an available name involved in the case submitted by Mr. Hopkins regarding the name *Palaeopsylla daea* Dampf, 1910, was not recommended in Voting Paper V.P.(56)46 for addition to the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*, it is deemed desirable to place on record that the above name was involved also in an application (Z.N.(S.) 654) previously submitted by Mr. Hopkins in regard to the generic name *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863, and was placed on the above *Official List* as Name No. 692 by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 388, the *Opinion* embodying the Commission's decision in regard to the foregoing case.

12. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 4th July 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(56)46, subject to the minor adjustment (regarding the specific name *aspalacis* Jordan, 1929 (*Amphipsylla*)) specified in the Minute executed by the Secretary on 29th June 1957, the text of which is reproduced in paragraph 10 of the present *Opinion*.

13. Original References : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on the *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

aspalacis, *Amphipsylla*, Jordan, 1929, *Novit. zool.* **35** : 161, pl. 10, figs. 22, 24
daea, *Palaeopsylla*, Dampf, 1910, *Zool. Jb.*, Suppl. **12** : 633, figs. Q, R, S, T, U, V
sibirica, *Typhlopsylla*, Wagner, 1901, *Hor. Soc. ent. ross.* **35** : 26, pl. 1, figs. 3, 4

14. The following is the reference for the selection of a lecto-type for a nominal species specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For <i>Palaeopsylla daea</i>	Hopkins (G.H.E.), 1956,
Dampf, 1910	<i>Bull. zool. Nomencl.</i>
	11 : 351, paragraph 9

15. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

16. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Ninety-One (491) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fourth day of July, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING